

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 7-12 as follows. A detailed listing of all claims is as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

b
Claim 7 (New): An information reproducing apparatus for expanding compressed information recorded on a recording medium by one of a plurality of different compression methods, and outputs reproduced information based on the expanded information, said apparatus comprising:

a reading device for reading compressed information recorded on said recording medium;

a memory controller for writing the compressed information read by said reading device into a memory, reading the compressed information written in said memory in the order of writing;

an expander for expanding the information read by said memory controller; and

a judging device for determining which of the plurality of compression methods is used as a compression method of the compressed information read by said reading device,

wherein said memory controller starts to read the compressed information from said memory when an amount of the compressed information written into said memory reaches a first storage information amount corresponding to a compression method determined by the judging device.

Claim 8 (New): An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the higher a compression rate of the compression method determined by the judging device is, the smaller the first storage information amount becomes.

Claim 9 (New): An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first storage information amount for each of the plurality of compression methods is set so that a time period reproduced by the first storage information amount is substantially the same for the information compressed by any of the plurality of compression methods.

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Claim 10 (New): An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said memory controller controls said reading device in a pause state of reading to stop writing the compressed information into said memory when an amount of the compressed information written into said memory reaches a full storage information amount of the memory, and controls said reading device in a reading state to restart to write the compressed information read by said reading device into said memory when an amount of the compressed information written into said memory decreases to a second storage information amount, which is larger than the first storage information amount, corresponding to a compression method determined by the judging device by reading the compressed information from said memory after reaching the full storage information amount.

Claim 11 (New): An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the higher a compression rate of the compression method determined by the judging device is, the larger the second storage information amount becomes.

B¹ Claim 12 (New): An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said expander expands the compressed information read by said memory controller by using an expansion method corresponding to a compression method determined by the judging device.
